



Borough of Bewdley.

Annual Report

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1904.

W. E. TOLLEY, PRINTER, 29, LOAD STREET, BEWDLEY.

TO THE Town Council of Bewdley.

BEWDLEY,
JANUARY 30th, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1904 there have been registered in the Borough 51 Deaths, giving a rate of 17·78 per 1,000 of the population.

This is a little higher than the average for the last ten years.

Of the Deaths registered there were

				under 1 year	20
Between 1 year and under				5 years	5
"	5	"	"	15	1
"	15	"	"	25	3
"	25	"	"	65	11
				Over 65	11
					—
					51
					—

It will be noticed that 20 Deaths occurred of infants under one year of age. This gives a rate of 294 per 1,000 children born, which is extremely high, but, as I pointed out in speaking of the extremely low rate last year, the statistics for any single year in a small population like this are not of any very great importance. In the present case four of the infants

only lived a few hours, owing to premature birth, whereas last year there were no such cases; also the number of Births was a good deal lower than usual, which increases the proportion of Deaths to Births.

Nine of the infants died from Bronchitis, mostly in the first quarter of the year, and five of Diarrhœa during the heat of the summer.

Birth Rate.

During the year there have been 68 Births registered, which gives a rate of 23·72 per 1,000 of the population.

This as I remarked before is a good deal lower than the average, which is 28 per 1,000.

Infectious Diseases.

The Borough has been remarkably free from Infectious Diseases during the year. There have been only four cases of Scarlet Fever, three of which were in one house; three cases of Enteric Fever, all in one house; one case of Diphtheria, and three of Erysipelas.

All the cases recovered, and all were satisfactorily isolated in their own homes.

Water.

There are now 503 houses supplied with the Town Water, an increase of 136 over last year.

There are still 131 houses whose inhabitants are deprived of the benefit of the unlimited supply of pure water which their neighbours enjoy, by the short-sighted economy of themselves or their landlords, but I hope that every house in the Borough which is within reach of the mains will in the near future be connected with them.

During the year 28 samples of water have been sent to the County Analyst for examination and 14 have been condemned. In every case the well has been closed and the Town supply substituted, though in four cases this was not done till legal proceedings had been taken.

**House
Accommodation.**

Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act many representations have been made and the necessary improvements carried out.

One house which had been closed as unfit for habitation has been put in repair and is now occupied.

In one case a prosecution was necessary before the house was put in a proper sanitary condition.

One case of overcrowding has been dealt with, and the family removed to a larger house.

Drainage.

This remains in the same condition as before, though I am pleased to be able to report that the increased water supply has been much more effective than I had anticipated in keeping the sewers flushed in dry weather.

The Sanitary Inspector informs me that on several occasions, even in the driest part of the summer, he found a good stream of water in the sewers, and the sewers themselves much cleaner than they used to be in such weather.

**Excrement
Disposal and
Scavenging.**

I should like to refer again to the question I raised in my quarterly report, dated July 25th, 1904, as to the possibility, without any great increase of expense, of emptying the ash pits in the early hours of the morning only, instead of the work being carried on throughout the day, as is done at present; also whether the refuse could not be carried direct to the cart in every case, instead of being heaped up in the roadway for a time, as is now done in certain instances.

Both these customs are not only dangerous to the health of the community, but are most objectionable to the many strangers who visit the Borough in the summer time, and for whose benefit it is to our interest to present our streets in the most attractive condition.

House to House Inspection.	Owing to the amount of time that the Sanitary Inspector has had to spend in superintending the repairs to the Long Bank reservoir, and since then to his absence through illness, this has got rather behind hand, but I hope to be able shortly to resume it in a systematic manner.
Burial Ground.	In a satisfactory condition.
Canal Boats.	Regularly inspected.
Bake-houses.	Regularly inspected and in a satisfactory condition.
Slaughter-houses.	These remain as before.
Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milkshops.	Regularly inspected and in a satisfactory condition.
Offensive Trades.	None.
Sale of Food and Drugs Act.	No case has arisen.
Food Unfit for Human Consumption.	No case.
Bye-Laws.	Duly carried out.
River Pollution.	Remains as before.
Industries.	Agriculture, Timber trade, Horn Manufacture, Brassfounding, Tanning, Brewing, and Basket Making, besides which a large number of the population work at the Carpet Weaving and Wool Spinning works at Kidderminster.
Vans & Tents.	These are regularly inspected if any should come to the town. During the year one van was found in an insanitary condition, and another to be overcrowded. In both cases the owners were requested to leave the town.

Factories and Workshops.

These are regularly inspected. In four cases notices were served and the necessary improvements carried out.

Special Reports.

None made.

I should like in conclusion to suggest to the Council the advisability of appointing a special Sanitary Committee to which I and the Sanitary Inspector could report direct, and which could deal with minor sanitary matters, which are sometimes, at present, rather liable to be overlooked by the General Purposes Committee when other business of a more important nature is on the agenda.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

U. W. N. MILES,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	* Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number	* Rate.		Number.	* Rate
1894.	2876	102	35.17	13	132	44	15.17	Nil.	44	15.17
1895.	2876	64	22.2	14	216	60	20.86	Nil.	60	20.86
1896.	2876	84	29.2	13	154	53	18.43	Nil.	53	18.43
1897.	2876	88	30.59	11	125	43	14.95	Nil.	43	14.95
1898.	2876	72	25.03	11	152	42	14.60	Nil.	42	14.60
1899.	2876	76	26.42	12	157	41	14.25	Nil.	41	14.25
1900.	2876	71	24.68	7	98	51	17.73	Nil.	51	17.73
1901.	2866	87	30.35	8	91	39	13.60	Nil.	39	13.60
1902.	2866	76	26.51	7	92	52	18.14	Nil.	52	18.14
1903.	2866	86	30	4	46	29	10.11	9	38	13.25
Averages for years 1894-1903.	2873	80	28.01	10	126	45	15.78	9	46	16.09
1904.	2866	68	23.72	20	294	51	17.78	9	60	20.93

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages, 2866. Number of inhabited houses, 672. Average number of persons per house, 4, at census of 1901. Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2070.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during
the Year 1904.

NOTIFIABLE CASES.	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.			
		5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Diphtheria ..	1	1			
Erysipelas ..	3			1	2
Scarlet Fever ..	4	2	1	1	
Enteric Fever ..	3	2		1	
Totals ..	11	5	1	3	2

Isolation Hospital at Kidderminster.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.
Whooping Cough ..	2		2				
Epidemic Influenza ..	2					2	
Diarrhoea	6	5	1				
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	2				1	1	
Other tubercular diseases..	1			1			
Cancer, malignant disease	1						1
Bronchitis	15	9	2			1	3
Pneumonia	1				1		
Premature Birth..	3	3					
Heart Diseases ..	4					3	1
Accidents	1					1	
Suicides	1				1		
All other causes ..	12	3				3	6
All causes	51	20	5	1	3	11	11